

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Currently Amended) A ~~preventive or therapeutic pharmaceutical composition for a metabolic disease or heart disease, wherein the composition comprises the adiponectin expression inducing agent of claim 1 or 2 as an active ingredient~~ comprising:
 - (1) a DNA molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1; or
 - (2) a DNA molecule that hybridizes with the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 under stringent conditions of 6X SSC and 40% formamide at 25°C for hybridization, and 1X SSC at 55°C for washing.
4. (Currently Amended) An isolated cell for screening for an adiponectin expression-~~inducing substance, wherein the cell carries~~ comprising a reporter gene ~~that is quipped with at least operably linked to an enhancer element~~ comprising: consisting of (1) a DNA ~~comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 or SEQ ID NO: 5; or~~ (2) a DNA ~~comprising a nucleotide sequence with one or more nucleotide deletions, additions, substitutions, or insertions in the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5.~~

5. **(Currently Amended)** ~~The cell of claim 4, which further carries a KLF9-encoding DNA~~ An isolated cell comprising (i) a DNA molecule comprising a reporter gene operably linked to an enhancer element comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5 and (ii) the DNA molecule of (1) or (2):
(1) a DNA molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1; or
(2) a DNA molecule that hybridizes with the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 under stringent conditions of 6X SSC and 40% formamide at 25°C for hybridization, and 1X SSC at 55°C washing.
6. **(Currently Amended)** The cell of claim [[4 or]] 5, ~~which~~ wherein said cell is an adipocyte.
7. **(Currently Amended)** The cell of claim [[4 or]] 5, ~~which~~ wherein said cell is a hypertrophic adipocyte.
8. **(Withdrawn)** A method of screening for an adiponectin expression-inducing substance, wherein the method comprises the steps of: (1) reacting the cell of claim 4 with a test substance; (2) detecting expression of a reporter gene; and (3) selecting a test substance that yields a higher reporter gene expression in the cell reacted with the test substance than in the cell that has not reacted with the test substance.
9. **(Withdrawn)** A method of screening for a substance that can induce adiponectin expression, wherein the method comprises the steps of: (1) reacting the cell of claim 5 with a test substance; (2) detecting expression of a reporter gene; and (3) selecting a test substance that yields a higher reporter gene expression in the cell treated with the test substance than in the cell that has not reacted with the test substance.

10. **(Withdrawn)** A method of screening for a preventive or therapeutic pharmaceutical agent for obesity or an obesity-related disease, wherein the method comprises the steps of: (1) reacting the cell of claim 4 with a test substance; (2) detecting expression of a reporter gene; and (3) selecting a test substance that yields a higher reporter gene expression in the cell reacted with the test substance than in the cell that has not reacted with the test substance.
11. **(Withdrawn)** A method of screening for a preventive or therapeutic pharmaceutical agent for obesity or an obesity-related disease, wherein the method comprises the steps of: (1) reacting the cell of claim 5 with a test substance; (2) detecting expression of a reporter gene; and (3) selecting a test substance that yields a higher reporter gene expression in the cell reacted with the test substance than in the cell that has not reacted with the test substance.
12. **(Withdrawn)** A method for inducing expression of adiponectin comprising administering the adiponectin expression-inducing agent of claim 2.
13. **(Withdrawn)** A method for treating or preventing a metabolic disease or heart disease comprising administering a pharmaceutical composition that comprises the adiponectin expression-inducing agent of claim 2 as an active ingredient.
14. **(New)** The composition of claim 3, wherein the DNA of (2) is a DNA encoding a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 or an amino acid sequence with at least 80% identity to SEQ ID NO: 2.
15. **(New)** The composition of claim 3, further comprising a vector comprising the DNA molecule of (1) or (2).
16. **(New)** The composition of claim 14, wherein said identity is at least 90%.
17. **(New)** The composition of claim 14, wherein said identity is at least 95%.

18. **(New)** The cell of claim 5, wherein said cell comprises a vector carrying the DNA of (i) and a vector carrying the DNA of (ii).
19. **(New)** The cell of claim 5, wherein the DNA of (2) is a DNA encoding a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 or an amino acid sequence with at least 80% identity to SEQ ID NO: 2.
20. **(New)** The cell of claim 19, wherein said identity is at least 90%.
21. **(New)** The cell of claim 19, wherein said identity is at least 95%.